United Nations A/63/408

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 November 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 37

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Ms. Paula **Parviainen** (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. At its 1st meeting, on 2 October 2008, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 33 to 37. The general debate on those items was held at the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 6, 7, 9 and 10 October (see A/C.4/63/SR.2, 3, 5 and 6). The Committee took action on item 37 at its 7th, 11th and 13th meetings, on 13, 17, 20 and 21 October (see A/C.4/63/SR.7, 11 and 13).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples[1] and addendum to the report (A/63/23/Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of Western Sahara (A/63/131).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/63/23), chaps. VIII, IX, X and XII.

08-52145 (E) 281108

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 October, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, in his capacity as Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, introduced the report of the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the representative of Indonesia, in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee, made a statement in which he gave an account of the activities of the Special Committee during 2008 (see A/C.4/63/SR.2).

5. At the same meeting, the Fourth Committee granted requests for hearings to the following petitioners in connection with its consideration of the item:

J. J. Bossano (A/C.4/63/2)

Victoria-Lola M. Leon Guerrero, Chamoru Nation (A/C.4/63/3)

Craig Santos Perez, Guahan Indigenous Collective (A/C.4/63/3/Add.1)

Michael A. Tun'cap, Guam Famoksaiyan Collective — Oakland Chapter (A/C.4/63/3/Add.2)

Vicente C. Pangelinan, Senator, Guam Legislature (A/C.4/63/3/Add.3)

Edward L. Browne (A/C.4/63/4)

Charles Wilson, U.S.-Western Sahara Foundation (A/C.4/63/5)

Nancy Huff, Teach the Children International (A/C.4/63/5/Add.1)

Helen Hardin, Chief of Staff, Representative Zach Wamp (A/C.4/63/5/Add.2)

Janet Lenz, Christ the Rock Community Church (A/C.4/63/5/Add.3)

Marge Lottis, Victory Christian Center (A/C.4/63/5/Add.4)

Vanessa Ramos, American Association of Jurists (A/C.4/63/5/Add.5)

Agaila Abba Hemeida (A/C.4/63/5/Add.6)

Vincent Chapaux, Université Libre de Bruxelles (A/C.4/63/5/Add.7)

Hilt Teuwen, Oxfam Solidarité (A/C.4/63/5/Add.8)

Mikael Simble, Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara (A/C.4/63/5/Add.9)

Senia Bachir-Abderahman, Saharawi Youth Union (A/C.4/63/5/Add.10)

Francisco José Alonso Rodríguez, Liga Pro Derechos Humanos (A/C.4/63/5/Add.11)

Monseigneur Jean Abboud (A/C.4/63/5/Add.12)

Delphine Bourgeois, Med Euro Cap (A/C.4/63/5/Add.13)

Miguel Ortiz Asín, Forum Canario-Saharaui (A/C.4/63/5/Add.14)

Philippe H. Elghouayel, Together Foundation (A/C.4/63/5/Add.15)

Cherif Sidi Tejdert, Association Mauritanienne (A/C.4/63/5/Add.16)

Felipe Briones Vives, Asociación Internacional de Juristas por el Sáhara Occidental (A/C.4/63/5/Add.17)

Txomin Aurrecoechea, Instituciones Solidarias con el Pueblo Saharaui a nivel de Estado Español (A/C.4/63/5/Add.18)

Antonio López Ortiz, Federación Estatal de Instituciones Solidarias con el Pueblo Saharaui (A/C.4/63/5/Add.19)

María López Belloso, Instituto Hegoa (A/C.4/63/5/Add.20)

Aranzazu Chacon Ormazabal, Asociación de Vitoria-Gasteiz (A/C.4/63/5/Add.21)

Alberto Ruiz de Azua Solozabal, Euskal Fondoa (A/C.4/63/5/Add.22)

Juan Soroeta Liceras (A/C.4/63/5/Add.23)

José Manuel de la Fuente Serrano, Observatorio de Derechos Humanos del Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Badajoz (A/C.4/63/5/Add.24)

Washington Varela Salazar (A/C.4/63/5/Add.25)

Alberto Cid (A/C.4/63/5/Add.26)

France Weyl, Association des Amis de la République Arabe Sahraouie Démocratique (A/C.4/63/5/Add.27)

Lorenzo Olarte Cullen (A/C.4/63/5/Add.28)

Roberto Goiriz Ojeda (A/C.4/63/5/Add.29)

Tanya Warburg, Freedom for All (A/C.4/63/5/Add.30)

José M. Romero González (A/C.4/63/5/Add.31)

Horacio Yanes (A/C.4/63/5/Add.32)

Ahmed Boukhari, Polisario Front (A/C.4/63/5/Add.33)

Luciano Ardesi, Italian Association of Friendship and Solidarity with the Saharawi People (A/C.4/63/5/Add.34)

Mildred Thulin, former Member of Parliament of Sweden (A/C.4/63/5/Add.35)

Sydney S. Assor, Surrey Three Faiths Forum (A/C.4/63/5/Add.36)

Alouat Hamoudi (A/C.4/63/5/Add.37)

Anja Oksalampi, Yaakaare-REDHRIC (A/C.4/63/5/Add.38)

Saâdani Maoulainine, Association de protection des droits de l'homme (Maroc) (A/C.4/63/5/Add.39)

Jane Bahaijoub, Family Protection (A/C.4/63/5/Add.40)

Carmelo Vidalín, Mayor of Durazno, Uruguay (A/C.4/63/5/Add.41)

Aymeric Chauprade (A/C.4/63/5/Add.42)

Ennaba El Moussaoui, Association Sahraouie pour l'Unité et la Réconciliation (A/C.4/63/5/Add.43)

El Mami Boussif, Council of the region of Rio de Oro (A/C.4/63/5/Add.44)

Pedro Pinto Leite, International Platform of Jurists for East Timor (A/C.4/63/5/Add.45)

El aafia Hammaidi, Association de défense des femmes sahraouies (A/C.4/63/5/Add.46)

Jorge Reinaldo A. Vanossi (A/C.4/63/5/Add.47)

Gilonne d'Origny (A/C.4/63/5/Add.48)

Anna Maria Stame Cervone, Christian Democratic Women International (A/C.4/63/5/Add.49)

Cynthia Basinet (A/C.4/63/5/Add.50)

Marc Louis Ropivia (A/C.4/63/5/Add.51)

Erik Jensen (A/C.4/63/5/Add.52)

Diallo Babacar, Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégie, Dakar (A/C.4/63/5/Add.53)

Eric Cameron, World Action for Refugees (Norway) (A/C.4/63/5/Add.54)

Marselha Gonçalves Margerin, Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Centre for Human Rights (A/C.4/63/5/Add.55)

Jason I. Poblete, Esq., Defense Forum Foundation (A/C.4/63/5/Add.56)

José Luis Jiménez (A/C.4/63/5/Add.57)

Dieter Ficke, DF Logistics (A/C.4/63/5/Add.58)

Nicola Quatrano, Associazione Osservatorio Internazionale (A/C.4/63/5/Add.59)

Javier P. Morillas Gómez, Communications Adviser, Observatorio de Empleo (A/C.4/63/5/Add.60)

Francesco Bastagli (A/C.4/63/5/Add.61)

Will Sommer (A/C.4/63/5/Add.62)

Julien Boanemoi, Customary Senator, representative of the traditional area of Ajie-Aro (A/C.4/63/6)

Rock Wamytan (A/C.4/63/6/Add.1) signataire FLNKS de l'Accord de Nouméa, Conseiller auprés de la Présidence du Sénat

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 October, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard the following petitioners on the question of Gibraltar: the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Mr. Peter Caruana, and a petitioner, Mr. Joe Bossano (see A/C.4/63/SR.3).

7. At the same meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard the following petitioners on the question of Guam: Ms. Victoria-Lola M. Leon Guerrero, Mr. Craig Santos Perez, Ms. Ailene Quan (on behalf of Mr. Vicente C. Pangelinan) and Mr. Michael A. Tun'cap (see A/C.4/63/SR.3).

8. Also at the same meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard the following petitioner on the question of the United States Virgin Islands: Mr. Edward Browne (see A/C.4/63/SR.3).

9. Also at the 3rd meeting, on the basis of a decision taken at the 2nd meeting, the Committee heard the following petitioners on the question of Western Sahara: Mr. Charles Wilson, Ms. Nancy Huff, Ms. Helen Hardin, Ms. Janet Lenz, Ms. Agaila Abba Hemeida, Mr. Vincent Chapaux, Ms. Hilt Teuwen, Ms. Senia Bachir-Abderahman, Ms. Cynthia Basinet, Monseigneur Jean Abboud, Ms. Delphine Bourgeois, Mr. Miguel Ortiz Asín and Mr. Felipe Briones Vives (see A/C.4/63/SR.3).

10. At its 4th meeting, on 8 October, the Committee heard the following petitioners on the question of Western Sahara: Mr. Txomin Aurrecoechea, Mr. Antonio López Ortiz, Ms. María López Belloso, Ms. Aranzazu Chacon Ormazabal, Mr. Alberto Ruiz de Azua Solozabal, Mr. Jason I. Poblete, Mr. José Manuel de La Fuente Serrano, Ms. Saâdani Maoulainine, Ms. France Weyl, Ms. Anna Maria Stame Cervone, Mr. Roberto Goiriz Ojeda, Mr. Sydney S. Assor, Mr. José M. Romero González, Mr. Ahmed Boukhari, Mr. Luciano Ardesi, Ms. Mildred Thulin, Ms. Tanya Warburg, Mr. Alouat Hamoudi, Mr. Alberto Cid, Mr. Erik Jensen, Mr. Carmelo Vidalín, Mr. Aymeric Chauprade, Mrs. Ennaba El Moussaoui, Mr. El Mami Boussif, Ms. Marselha Gonçalves Margerin, Mrs. El aafia Hammaidi and Mr. Jorge Reinaldo A. Vanossi (see A/C.4/63/SR.4).

11. At its 5th meeting, on 9 October, the Committee heard the following petitioners on the question of Western Sahara: Mr. Lorenzo Olarte Cullen, Mr. Mikael Simble, Mr. Marc Louis Ropivia, Mrs. Jane Bahaijoub, Mr. Eric Cameron, Mr. Pedro Pinto Leite, Mr. Juan Soroeta Liceras, Mr. José Luis Jiménez, Mr. Francesco Bastagli, Mr. Javier P. Morillas Gómez, Mr. Diallo Babacar, Ms. Anja Oksalampi and Ms. Gilonne d'Origny (see A/C.4/63/SR.5).

12. At the same meeting, the Committee heard statements by the following petitioners on the question of New Caledonia: Mr. Julien Boanemoi and Mr. Rock Wamytan (see A/C.4/63/SR.5).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Question of Western Sahara

13. At its 6th and 10th meetings, on 10 and 16 October, the Committee decided to defer action on a draft resolution entitled "Question of Western Sahara" (A/C.4/63/L.5) sponsored by Algeria, Angola, Belize, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Jamaica, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu,[2] Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe.

14. At its 13th meeting, on 21 October, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Question of Western Sahara" (A/C.4/63/L.7), submitted by the Chairman to replace draft resolution A/C.4/63/L.5.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/63/L.7 without a vote (see para. 37, draft resolution I).

[2] The delegation of Vanuatu subsequently indicated that it had decided to withdraw from sponsoring draft resolution A/C.4/63/L.5.

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, and Albania, the former Yugloslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine), Algeria and Morocco (see A/C 4/63/SR.13).

B. Question of New Caledonia

17. At its 7th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "Question of New Caledonia", contained in chapter XII of the report of the Special Committee,[1] without a vote (see para. 37, draft resolution II).

C. Question of Tokelau

18. At its 7th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution V, entitled "Question of Tokelau", contained in chapter XII of the report of the Special Committee,[1] without a vote (see para. 37, draft resolution III).

D. Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

19. At its 7th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee decided to defer action on draft resolution VI, entitled "Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands", contained in chapter XII of the report of the Special Committee.[1]

20. At its 8th meeting, on 14 October, the Committee had before it an amendment (A/C.4/63/L.6) to draft resolution VI, proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, by which the words "and where there is no dispute over soveignty" would be deleted in operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A.

21. At its 10th meeting, on 16 October, the Committee decided to take action on draft resolution VI and the amendment thereto on 17 October.

22. On 17 October, the Committee decided to suspend its 11th meeting.

23. At its resumed 11th meeting, on 20 October, the Committee took action on draft resolution VI and the amendment thereto (A/C.4/63/L.6), as set out below.

24. At that meeting, prior to the vote on the amendment, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Australia, Ecuador, Singapore, Saint Lucia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Bolivia (see A/C.4/63/SR.11).

25. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the amendment (A/C.4/63/L.6) to the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 61 to 40, with 47 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Morocco, Namibia, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo.

26. After the adoption of the amendment, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Jordan, Jamaica, Indonesia, the Philippines, Guyana, Belize, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (see A/C.4/63/SR.11).

27. Also at its resumed 11th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution VI, as amended (see para. 37, draft resolution IV).

28. Statements in explanation of position before the adoption of the draft resolution were made by the representative of Pakistan and Saint Lucia; statements in explanation of position after the adoption of the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Argentina, Spain and Algeria (see A/C.4/63/SR.11).

E. Dissemination of information on decolonization

29. At its 7th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution VII, entitled "Dissemination of information on decolonization", contained in chapter XII

of the report of the Special Committee,[1] by a recorded vote of 153 to 3, with 1 abstention (see para. 37, draft resolution V). The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France.

30. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see A/C.4/63/SR.7).

F. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

31. At its 7th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution VIII, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", contained in chapter XII of the report of the Special Committee,[1] by a recorded vote of 156 to 3, with 2 abstentions (see para. 37, draft resolution VI). The voting was as follows:

[3] The delegations of Andorra and Jordan subsequently indicated that they had intended to vote in favour.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belgium, France.

32. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see A/C.4/63/SR.7).

G. Question of Gibraltar

33. At its 7th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Question of Gibraltar" (A/C.4/63/L.4), submitted by the Chairman.

34. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.4/63/L.4 without a vote (see para. 38, draft decision I).

H. Increase in the membership of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

35. At its 7th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Increase in the membership of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", contained in the addendum to the report of the Special Committee (A/63/23/Add.1, para. 4).

36. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote (see para. 38, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

37. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/116 of 17 December 2007,

Recalling also all resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling further Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990, 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, 1359 (2001) of 29 June 2001, 1429 (2002) of 30 July 2002, 1495 (2003) of 31 July 2003, 1541 (2004) of 29 April 2004, 1570 (2004) of 28 October 2004, 1598 (2005) of 28 April 2005, 1634 (2005) of 28 October 2005, 1675 (2006) of 28 April 2006 and 1720 (2006) of 31 October 2006,

Underlining the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007) on 30 April 2007, 1783 (2007) on 31 October 2007 and 1813 (2008) on 30 April 2008,

Expressing its satisfaction that the parties have met on 18 and 19 June 2007, on 10 and 11 August 2007, from 7 to 9 January 2008 and from 16 to 18 March 2008 under the auspices of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General and in the presence of the neighbouring countries and that they have agreed to continue the negotiations,

Calling upon all the parties and the States of the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy and with each other,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara,

Welcoming in this regard the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in search of a mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[1]

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Supports* the process of negotiations initiated by Security Council resolution 1754 (2007) and further sustained by Council resolutions 1783 (2007) and 1813 (2008), with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and commends the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in this respect;

3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue, in order to enter into a more intensive phase of negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions, taking note of efforts and developments since 2006, thus ensuring implementation of Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007) and 1813 (2008) and the success of negotiations;

4. *Also welcomes* the ongoing negotiations between the parties held on 18 and 19 June 2007, on 10 and 11 August 2007, from 7 to 9 January 2008 and from 16 to 18 March 2008 in the presence of the neighbouring countries under the auspices of the United Nations;

5. *Calls upon* the parties to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and calls upon them to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/63/23), chap. VIII, sect. C.

[2] A/63/131.

Draft resolution II
Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,[1]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Welcomes* the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia since the signing of the Nouméa Accord of 5 May 1998 by the representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France;[2]

2. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, in the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

3. *Notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord aimed at taking more broadly into account the Kanak identity in the political and social organization of New Caledonia, and welcomes, in this context, efforts under way towards jointly devising identity symbols for the Territory, such as name, flag, anthem, motto and banknotes, as required under the Nouméa Accord;

4. *Acknowledges* those provisions of the Nouméa Accord relating to control of immigration and protection of local employment, and notes that unemployment remains high among Kanaks and that recruitment of foreign mine workers continues;

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/63/23), chap. VIII, sect. B.

[2] A/AC.109/2114, annex.

5. *Notes* the concerns expressed by a group of indigenous people in New Caledonia regarding their underrepresentation in the Territory's governmental and social structures;

6. *Takes note* of the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, according to their regulations;

7. *Notes* the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

8. *Recalls* the fact that the administering Power invited to New Caledonia, at the time the new institutions were established, a mission of information which comprised representatives of countries of the Pacific region;

9. *Notes* the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund in such areas as economic and trade cooperation, the environment, climate change and financial services;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;

11. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, according to the letter and the spirit of the Nouméa Accord, which is based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

12. *Recalls with satisfaction* the efforts of the French authorities to resolve the question of voter registration by adopting, in the French Congress of Parliament, on 19 February 2007, amendments to the French Constitution allowing New Caledonia to restrict eligibility to vote in local polls to those voters registered on the 1998 electoral rolls when the Nouméa Accord was signed, thus ensuring strong representation of the Kanak population;

13. *Welcomes* all measures taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords;

14. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon and Nouméa Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

15. *Notes* the financial assistance rendered by the Government of France to the Territory in areas such as health, education, payment of public-service salaries and funding development schemes;

16. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

17. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, including the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

18. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Australia, France and New Zealand in terms of surveillance of fishing zones, in accordance with the wishes expressed by France during the France-Oceania Summits in July 2003 and June 2006;

19. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;

20. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the participation of New Caledonia in the Pacific Islands Forum, following its accession to the Forum as associate member in October 2006, at the 37th Summit of the Forum;

21. *Also welcomes* the continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;

22. *Further welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

23. *Recalls* the endorsement of the report of the Forum Ministerial Committee on New Caledonia by leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum at its 36th Summit, held in Papua New Guinea in October 2005, and the continuing role of the Forum Ministerial Committee in monitoring developments in the Territory and encouraging closer regional engagements;

24. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

25. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

Draft resolution III
Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Tokelau,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 62/121 of 17 December 2007,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Also noting with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Recalling the inauguration in 1996 of a national legislative body, the General Fono, based on village elections by universal adult suffrage and the assumption by that body in June 2003 of full responsibility for the Tokelau budget,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Recalling that New Zealand and Tokelau signed in November 2003 a document entitled "Joint statement of the principles of partnership", which sets out in writing, for the first time, the rights and obligations of the two partner countries,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association and its decision in August 2005 to hold a referendum on self-government on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a treaty of free association with New Zealand,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements;

2. *Notes also* the ongoing recognition by New Zealand of the complete right of the people of Tokelau to undertake the act of self-determination when this is considered by the people of Tokelau to be appropriate;

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/63/23), chap. X.

3. *Welcomes* the substantial progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils), in particular the delegation of the Administrator's powers to the three taupulega with effect from 1 July 2004 and the assumption by each taupulega from that date of full responsibility for the management of all its public services;

4. *Recalls* the decision of the General Fono in November 2003, following extensive consultations in all three villages and a meeting of the Special Committee on the Constitution of Tokelau, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association, and the discussions subsequently held between Tokelau and New Zealand pursuant to the decision of the General Fono;

5. *Recalls also* the decision of the General Fono in August 2005 to hold a referendum on self-government on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a treaty of free association with New Zealand, and notes the enactment by the General Fono of rules for the referendum;

6. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's initiative in devising a strategic economic development plan for the period 2007-2010;

7. *Also acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme;

8. *Further acknowledges* Tokelau's need for continued support from the international community;

9. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the future development needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to assist this emerging country in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

10. *Welcomes* the assurance of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

11. *Also welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau, and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

13. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to transmit information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau to the Secretary-General;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the considerable progress made in the negotiation of a draft constitution by New Zealand and Tokelau, as well as the decisions on proposed national symbols by Tokelau, and the steps taken by Tokelau and New Zealand to agree to a draft treaty of free association as a basis for an act of self-determination;

15. *Notes* that a referendum to determine the future status of Tokelau held in February 2006 failed to produce the two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change Tokelau's status from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand;

16. *Also notes* the subsequent decision of the General Fono to conduct a further referendum to determine the future status of Tokelau from 20 to 24 October 2007;

17. *Commends* the professional and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums, monitored by the United Nations;

18. *Notes* that the October 2007 referendum also did not produce the two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change the status of Tokelau from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand to that of self-government in free association with New Zealand;

19. *Acknowledges* the decision of the General Fono that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau will be deferred and that New Zealand and Tokelau will devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau are enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life for the people of Tokelau;

20. *Welcomes* the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continue to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people, taking into account the principle of the right to self-determination;

21. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

Draft resolution IV
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A
General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[1]

Recalling all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV), containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern that more than forty-seven years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[2] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2010 and the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[3]

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/63/23), chap. IX.

[2] Resolution 1514 (XV).

[3] A/56/61, annex.

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the stated position of the Government of the United States of America on the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration,

Noting also the stated positions of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the Special Committee and in its regional seminars,

Noting further the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories affecting the internal structure of governance about which the Special Committee has received information,

Aware of the importance both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, under the aegis of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting that a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by some administering Powers, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, of amending or enacting legislation for application to the Territories, either through Orders in Council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power, or through the unilateral application of laws and regulations,

Aware of the importance of the international financial services sector for the economies of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that United Nations visiting and special missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers,

Mindful also that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options of self-determination,

Mindful, in this connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate, and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Mindful also that the 2008 Pacific regional seminar was held in Bandung, Indonesia, from 14 to 16 May,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and, in this connection, bearing in mind the applicability to the Territories of the programmes of action of all United Nations world conferences[4] and special sessions of the General Assembly in the economic and social sphere,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Aware that the Human Rights Committee, as part of its mandate under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[5] reviews the status of the self-determination process, including in small island Territories under examination by the Special Committee,

Recalling the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

---

[4] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum); *Report of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 23-27 May 1994* (A/CONF.172/9), chap. I; *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I; *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex; *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II; and *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Recognizing that the annual background working papers prepared by the Secretariat on developments in each of the small Territories,[6] as well as the substantive documentation and information furnished by experts, scholars, non-governmental organizations and other sources, have provided important inputs to update the present resolution,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection reiterates its long-standing call for the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Requests* the administering Powers to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their respective administering Powers;

6. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

7. *Requests* the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories and to provide assistance to those Territories, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

8. *Welcomes* the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional activities, including the work of regional organizations;

9. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[3] in particular by expediting the application of the work programme for the decolonization of each

[6] A/AC.109/2008/2-4, 6, 7, 10 and Corr.1, 11, 12 and 15-17.

Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, as well as by ensuring that periodic analyses are undertaken of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each Territory should fully reflect developments in those Territories;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration, and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Territories, and encourages the administering Powers to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territories;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the constitutional reviews in the respective Territories administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and led by the territorial Governments, designed to address internal constitutional structures within the present territorial arrangements, and decides to follow closely the developments concerning the future political status of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the First and Second International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism;

14. *Reiterates its request* that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[5] with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Human Rights Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Special Committee;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to collaborate with the Economic and Social Council and its relevant subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, with the aim of exchanging information on developments in those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are reviewed by those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

B

Individual Territories

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I

American Samoa

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa[7] and other relevant information,

Aware that under United States law the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa,[8]

Noting the position of the administering Power and the statements made by representatives of American Samoa in regional seminars expressing satisfaction with the Territory's present relationship with the United States of America,

Aware of the work of the Future Political Status Study Commission, completed in 2006, and the release of its report, with recommendations, in January 2007, to help the Territory study alternative forms of future political status open to American Samoa and to assess the advantages and disadvantages of each,

Noting, in that regard, the information contained in the paper provided by the Chairman of the Future Political Status Study Commission and distributed at the 2008 Pacific regional seminar requesting the Special Committee to review the Territory's status as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, with a view to accepting the Territory's future political status once chosen by its people,

Aware that American Samoa continues to be the only United States Territory to receive financial assistance from the administering Power for the operations of the territorial Government, and calling upon the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the diversification of its economy,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the territorial Government and legislature with regard to the recommendations made by the Future Political Status Study Commission in preparation for a constitutional convention addressing issues related to the future status of American Samoa;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the invitation previously extended to the Special Committee by the Governor of American Samoa to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chairperson of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public awareness programme recommended by the Future Political Status Study Commission in its 2007 report, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

---

[7] A/AC.109/2008/3.

[8] United States Congress, 1929 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1661, 45 Stat. 1253), and Secretary's Order 2657, Department of the Interior, United States of America, 1951, as amended.

II
Anguilla

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla[9] and other relevant information,

Recalling the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government and made possible by the administering Power, the first time that the seminar had been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

Taking note of the internal constitutional review process resumed by the territorial Government in 2006, the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, which prepared its report in August 2006, and the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007 on proposed constitutional amendments to be presented to the administering Power, as well as of the territorial Government's recent decision to revisit the recommendations of the Commission, in order to move the process forward, with the aim of seeking full internal self-government,

Aware that the Government intends to continue its commitment to high-end tourism and the implementation of various regulations in the financial services sector,

Noting the participation of the Territory as an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission and its report of 2006, the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007, with the aim of making recommendations to the administering Power on proposed changes to the Constitution of the Territory and the subsequent efforts of the territorial Government to advance the internal constitutional review exercise;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chairperson of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

III
Bermuda

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda[10] and other relevant information,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties on the future status of the Territory, and noting a recent survey by local media on the matter,

---

[9] A/AC.109/2008/7.

[10] A/AC.109/2008/10 and Corr.1.

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005 at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and regrets that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

IV
British Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands[11] and other relevant information,

Recalling the 1993 report of the Constitutional Commissioners, the 1996 debate on the report in the Legislative Council of the Territory, the establishment of the Constitutional Review Commission in 2004, the completion in 2005 of its report providing recommendations on internal constitutional modernization and the debate held in 2005 on the report in the Legislative Council, as well as the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government, which resulted in the adoption of the new Constitution of the Territory in 2007,

Noting that the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands provides for a Governor, who maintains reserved powers in the Territory, to be appointed by the administering Power,

Noting also the statement made by an expert from the Territory at the 2008 Pacific regional seminar, who presented an analysis of the recently concluded constitutional review process,

Noting further that the Territory continues to emerge as a leading offshore financial centre, with unprecedented growth in its financial and tourism services sectors,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the new Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, which took effect in June 2007, and notes the need expressed by the territorial Government for minor constitutional amendments in the years to come;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter

[11] A/AC.109/2008/2.

of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Territory to focus its economic base more on local ownership and on professional service industries other than financial services;

4. *Appreciates* the efforts made to continue the work of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the elected Governments of the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands to advance cooperation between the two neighbouring Territories;

V
Cayman Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands[12] and other relevant information,

Aware of the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Commission, which contained a draft constitution for the consideration of the people of the Territory, the 2003 draft constitution offered by the administering Power and the subsequent discussions between the Territory and the administering Power in 2003, and the reopening of discussions between the administering Power and the territorial Government on internal constitutional modernization in 2006, with the aim of ascertaining the views of the people by way of referendum,

Noting with interest the establishment of the Cayman Islands Constitutional Review Secretariat, which began its work in March 2007 in support of the Territory's constitution modernization initiative, which comprises four phases with regard to constitutional reform, including research and publicity, consultation and public education, a referendum on reform proposals, and negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government,

Acknowledging the indication by the territorial Government that certain cost-of-living issues, such as inflation, continue to be a cause for concern,

1. *Welcomes* the publication by the territorial Government of a consultation paper in January 2008 setting out a number of proposals for constitutional reform, with a view to holding a referendum on those proposals, or revised proposals, later in the year;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public awareness outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to address cost-of-living issues in various economic sectors;

[12] A/AC.109/2008/11.

VI
Guam

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam[13] and other relevant information,

Aware that under United States law the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[14]

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also the previously expressed requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Aware of deep concerns expressed by civil society and others, including at the 2008 Pacific regional seminar, regarding the potential social and other impacts of the impending transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

Aware also of the austerity and fiscal measures undertaken by the territorial Government since 2007, when the Governor declared a financial "state of emergency",

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

1. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, and encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter;

---

[13] A/AC.109/2008/15.

[14] United States Congress, Organic Act of Guam, 1950, as amended.

2. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

4. *Recalls* the previously made request by the elected Governor to the administering Power to lift restrictions to allow for foreign airlines to transport passengers between Guam and the United States of America to provide for a more competitive market and increased visitor arrivals;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

VII
Montserrat

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat[15] and other relevant information,

Recalling the 2002 report of the Constitutional Review Commission, the convening of a committee of the House of Assembly in 2005 to review the report and the subsequent discussions between the administering Power and the territorial Government on internal constitutional advancement and devolution of power,

Noting that the negotiating process with the administering Power on a draft constitution, expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2007, is in progress and that talks, postponed at the request of the territorial Government since more time was needed, are expected to resume in the course of 2008,

Aware that Montserrat continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Recalling the statements made by participants at the 2007 Caribbean regional seminar encouraging the administering Power to commit sufficient resources to meet the Territory's special needs,

Noting with concern the continued consequences of the volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

Acknowledging the continued assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which

[15] A/AC.109/2008/16.

has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the territorial Government to continue to negotiate improvements to the Constitution of the Territory so as to preserve its ability to move towards greater self-determination at a later stage;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII
Pitcairn

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn[16] and other relevant information,

Taking into account the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

Noting that the internal review of the Constitution of the Territory is still deferred,

Aware that the administering Power and the territorial Government are in the process of restructuring the relationship between the Governor's Office and the territorial Government, based on consultations with the people of the Territory, and that Pitcairn continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

1. *Welcomes* all efforts by the administering Power that would devolve operational responsibilities to the territorial Government, with a view to expanding self-government;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support economic security in Pitcairn;

[16] A/AC.109/2008/4.

IX
Saint Helena

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena[17] and other relevant information,

Taking into account the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

Noting the internal constitutional review process led by the territorial Government since 2001, the completion of a draft constitution following negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government in 2003 and 2004, the consultative poll with regard to a new constitution, held in Saint Helena in May 2005, the subsequent preparation of a revised draft constitution as a basis for discussion and the efforts of the territorial Government to keep the constitutional review exercise high on its agenda, including through public meetings,

Noting in that regard the importance of the right to nationality for Saint Helenians and their previously expressed request that the right, in principle, be included in a new constitution,

Aware that Saint Helena continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Aware also of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment and transport and communications infrastructure,

Noting the efforts of the Territory to address the problem of unemployment on the island and the joint action of the administering Power and the territorial Government in dealing with it,

Noting also the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Saint Helena,

1. *Welcomes* the Territory's continuing constitutional review process, including the related public meetings, and calls upon the administering Power to take into account the previously expressed concerns of Saint Helenians with regard to the right to nationality;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the Territory's socio-economic development challenges, including unemployment, and limited transport and communications infrastructure;

[17] A/AC.109/2008/6.

4. *Welcomes* the decision by the administering Power to provide funding for the construction of an international airport on Saint Helena, which is to become operational in 2011-2012, including all required infrastructure;

X
Turks and Caicos Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands[18] and other relevant information,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

Recalling also the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Body, and acknowledging the Constitution agreed between the administering Power and the territorial Government, which entered into force in 2006,

Noting that the 2006 Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands provides for a Governor, who maintains reserved powers in the Territory, to be appointed by the administering Power,

Acknowledging the significant and steady period of economic expansion fuelled by the continuing growth of high-end tourism and related real estate development,

1. *Recalls* the Constitution of the Territory, which took effect in 2006, and notes the view of the territorial Government that there remains scope for a degree of delegation of the Governor's power to the Territory so as to secure greater autonomy;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of social cohesion across the Territory;

XI
United States Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands[19] and other relevant information,

Aware that under United States law the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[20]

---

[18] A/AC.109/2008/12.

[19] A/AC.109/2008/17.

[20] United States Congress, Revised Organic Act, 1954.

Aware also of the ongoing Constitutional Convention, the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as the various related efforts in implementing a public education programme on the Constitution, as outlined in a statement by a participant from the Territory presented to the 2008 Pacific regional seminar,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Constitutional Convention in 2007, and requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the ongoing internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public education programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and, in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Reiterates its call* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

4. *Appreciates* the efforts made to continue the work of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the elected Governments of the United States Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands to advance cooperation between the two neighbouring Territories.

Draft resolution V
Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[1]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular Assembly resolution 62/119 of 17 December 2007,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[2]

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

Welcoming the issuance by the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, in particular the preparation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, of the information leaflet entitled "What the UN Can Do to Assist Non-Self-Governing Territories", issued in March 2007, and encourages wide dissemination of the information leaflet;

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/63/23), chap. III.

[2] A/56/61, annex.

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to this end, requests the Department of Public Information to empower the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website by including the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution VI
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 62/120 of 17 December 2007, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, by which it declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2001,

Reconfirming the need to take measures to eliminate colonialism by 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the achievements of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the formal participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with interest the cooperation and active participation of some administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

Taking note that the Pacific regional seminar was held in Bandung, Indonesia, from 14 to 16 May 2008,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 55/146, by which it declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* and addendum (A/63/23 and Add.1).

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[2]

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop and finalize, before the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

6. *Recalls with satisfaction* the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, before the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;[3]

8. *Recognizes* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism[4] represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

11. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

12. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance as needed to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

---

[3] See resolution 54/91.

[4] A/56/61, annex.

13. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

14. *Calls upon* all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in its future sessions;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

16. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2008,[1] including the programme of work envisaged for 2009;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

38. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Question of Gibraltar

The General Assembly, recalling its decision 62/523 of 17 December 2007 and the statements agreed to by the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Brussels, on 27 November 1984,[1] and in Madrid, on 27 October 2004, and noting the establishment, pursuant to the latter, of the tripartite Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar, separate from the Brussels Process, under the statement made jointly by the Governments of Spain, the United Kingdom and Gibraltar on 16 December 2004:

(a) Urges both Governments, while listening to the interests and aspirations of Gibraltar, to reach, in the spirit of the statement of 27 November 1984, a definitive solution to the question of Gibraltar, in the light of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and applicable principles, and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Welcomes the ongoing successful implementation of the first package of measures concluded at the tripartite Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar and the shared will to reach new agreements by July 2009.

Draft decision II
Increase in the membership of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly decides to increase the membership of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples from twenty-seven to twenty-eight and to appoint Ecuador as a member of the Committee.

---

[1] A/39/732, annex.

United Nations A/63/409

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 November 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 110

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Ms. Paula **Parviainen** (Finland)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly" and to allocate it to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work.

2. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) considered the item at its 22nd meeting, on 5 November 2008 (see A/C.4/63/SR.22).

3. At its 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly" (A/C.4/63/L.10).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.4/63/L.10 (see para. 5).

Recommendation of the Fourth Committee

5. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

08-52151 (E) 241108

Proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly approves the proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, as contained in the annex to the report of the Fourth Committee.

Annex

Proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly

Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
Organization of work	Thursday, 1 October, morning (1 meeting)
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	Monday, 5 October, afternoon
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	Tuesday, 6 October, afternoon
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	Wednesday, 7 October, afternoon
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	Thursday, 8 October, afternoon
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	Friday, 9 October, afternoon (5 meetings)
University for Peace (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate)	Monday, 12 October, morning (1 meeting)
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate)	Tuesday, 13 October, morning Wednesday, 14 October, morning Thursday, 15 October, morning (3 meetings)
Questions relating to information (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate)	Friday, 16 October, morning Monday, 19 October, morning Wednesday, 21 October, afternoon (3 meetings)
Effects of atomic radiation (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate)	Thursday, 22 October, afternoon (1 meeting)

Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (draft programme of work for the next session)	
Programme planning	
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate)	Friday, 23 October, morning
	Monday, 26 October, morning
	Tuesday, 27 October, morning
	Wednesday, 28 October, morning (4 meetings)
Assistance in mine action (interactive dialogue followed by a general debate)	Thursday, 29 October, morning
	Friday, 30 October, afternoon (2 meetings)
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (question and answer period followed by a general debate)	Monday, 2 November, afternoon
	Tuesday, 3 November, afternoon
	Wednesday, 4 November, morning (3 meetings)
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories	Friday, 6 November, morning
	Monday, 9 November, morning
	Tuesday, 10 November, morning (3 meetings)
Action on all draft resolutions submitted under the last two agenda items	Wednesday, 11 November, morning (1 meeting)
Total	**27 meetings**

United Nations A/63/410

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 December 2008

Original: Arabic

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 38

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Awsan **Al-Aud** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 13th, 19th and 28th meetings, on 20 and 28 October and on 20 November 2008. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/63/SR.13, 19 and 28). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/63/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2008;[1]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social

[1] A/63/3 and Add.1; for the final text see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/63/3/Rev.1).

repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/63/74-E/2008/13);

(c) Letter dated 8 July 2008 from the representative of Italy to the Secretary-General transmitting the four resolutions adopted by the 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Cape Town, South Africa, 18 April 2008) (A/63/123).

4. At the 13th meeting, on 20 October, the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/63/SR.13).

5. At the same meeting, pursuant to section C, paragraph 3 (d), of General Assembly resolution 58/316, the Committee held a dialogue with the representative of the Secretariat, during which comments were made and questions were posed by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and the observer for Palestine, to which the Officer-in-Charge of the Regional Commissions New York Office responded (see A/C.2/63/SR.13).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.5

6. At the 19th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, the Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Palestine,[2] introduced a draft resolution entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources" (A/C.2/63/L.5). Subsequently, Pakistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At its 28th meeting on 20 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.5 by a recorded vote of 139 to 6, with 4 abstentions (see para. 11). The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican

[2] In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/250.

[3] Subsequently, the delegations of Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, Guinea, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Zambia indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour; the delegation of Palau indicated that had it been present, it would have voted against; and the delegation of Haiti indicated that its vote in abstention had been in error and that it had intended to vote in favour.

Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

Abstaining:

Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Haiti, Nauru.

9. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Israel and France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) (see A/C.2/63/SR.28).

10. Also at the 28th meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Palestine (see A/C.2/63/SR.28).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/181 of 19 December 2007, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/31 of 25 July 2008,

Recalling also its resolutions 59/251 of 22 December 2004 and 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling, in this regard, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Recalling also the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[3] and recalling further its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Expressing its concern at the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

Expressing its grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the uprooting of a vast number of fruit-bearing trees,

Expressing its concern at the widespread destruction caused by Israel, the occupying Power, to vital infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage networks, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which, inter alia, pollutes the environment and negatively affects the natural resources of the Palestinian people,

Aware of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, and of the dire socio-economic consequences in this regard,

Aware also of the detrimental impact on Palestinian natural resources being caused by the unlawful construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and of its grave effect as well on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the need for the advancement of negotiations within the Middle East peace process, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative,[4] and the Quartet performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[5] as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, for the achievement of a final settlement on all tracks,

Noting the Israeli withdrawal from within the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank and the importance of the dismantlement of settlements therein as a step towards the implementation of the road map,

Stressing the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Taking note with appreciation of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan,[6]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water;

---

[4] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[5] See S/2003/529, annex.

[6] A/63/74-E/2008/13.

2. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, damage, cause loss or depletion of, or endanger the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion, or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with in the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

4. *Stresses* that the wall being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is seriously depriving the Palestinian people of their natural resources, and calls in this regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice[3] and in resolution ES-10/15;

5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

6. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and pose an environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations;

7. *Further calls upon* Israel to cease its destruction of vital infrastructure, including water pipelines and sewage networks, which, inter alia, has a negative impact on the natural resources of the Palestinian people;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources".

United Nations A/63/411

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 December 2008

Original: Arabic

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 46

Information and communication technologies for development

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Awsan **Al-Aud** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Information and communication technologies for development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 16th, 24th and 30th meetings, on 23 October and 4 and 26 November 2008. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/63/SR.16, 24 and 30). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/63/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/63/72-E/2008/48);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/130, including the recommendations of the tenth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development (A/63/180).

4. At the 16th meeting, on 23 October, introductory statements were made by the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Technology and Logistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the Senior Public Information and Liaison Officer of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (see A/C.2/63/SR.16).

08-62974 (E) 051208

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/63/L.10 and A/C.2/63/L.55

5. At the 24th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Information and communication technologies for development" (A/C.2/63/L.10), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004 and 62/182 of 19 December 2007 and other relevant resolutions,

"*Recalling further* the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 20 October 2005,

"*Recalling* the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, as endorsed by the General Assembly, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, and endorsed by the General Assembly,

"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling further* the outcome of the first and second meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens from 30 October to 2 November 2006 and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 12 to 15 November 2007, respectively, and welcoming the convening of the third meeting of the Forum in Hyderabad, India, from 3 to 6 December 2008,

"*Welcoming*, in view of the existing gaps in information and communication technologies infrastructure across Africa, the launching in Kigali in October 2007 of Connect Africa, an initiative aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

"*Recognizing* the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment, of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

"*Welcoming* the activities carried out by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as in the next intersessional meeting to be held in Santiago from 12 to 14 November 2008,

"*Stressing* that, for the majority of the poor, the developmental promise of science and technology, including information and communication technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communication technologies, to bridge the digital divide,

"1. *Recognizes* that information and communication technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster economic growth, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will effectively expedite the integration of all countries in a positive and fair way into the global economy;

"2. *Stresses* the important role of Governments in the design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, inter alia, making effective use of information and communication technologies, on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts;

"3. *Recognizes* the importance of access to information and knowledge to fostering local capacity development and innovation and promoting overall sustainable development;

"4. *Also recognizes* that information and communication technologies present new opportunities and challenges, and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon the developed countries to provide adequate financial resources, enhanced capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries;

"5. *Further recognizes* the immense potential that information and communication technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socio-economic activity, and calls for accelerating the work on the development-related mandate concerning the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights that would enable the fulfilment of this potential;

"6. *Stresses* the need to reduce the digital divide and to ensure that the benefits of the new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, are available to all;

"7. *Recalls* the creation, within the context of the World Summit on the Information Society, of the Global Digital Solidarity Fund, and in this regard invites voluntary contribution to its financing, in particular through its new financing mechanism, the '1 per cent digital solidarity principle';

"8. *Recognizes* the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, including with respect to enhancing access to information and communication technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, and notes that developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, are lagging behind in their effective use of

information and communication technologies for national, social and economic development;

"9. *Also recognizes* that South-South cooperation, particularly through triangular cooperation, can be a useful tool to promote the development of information and communication technologies;

"10. *Stresses* the need for resources for information and communication technologies activities on a predictable, continuous and reliable basis to enable the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute effectively to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

"11. *Recognizes* the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology, and in that regard encourages the United Nations development system to continue its effort to promote the use of information and communication technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009, on the basis of his ongoing consultations with relevant international organizations, recommendations on how the process towards enhanced cooperation, as mandated by the World Summit on the Information Society in article 71 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, should be pursued;

"13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the budget proposal for the biennium 2009-2010, to provide for regular funds to support the work of the secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum;

"14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution."

6. At its 30th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution, circulated in English only, entitled "Information and communication technologies for development" (future A/C.2/63/L.55), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee (Guyana), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.10.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.55 (see para. 11).

9. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman (Guyana) (see A/C.2/63/SR.30).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.55, draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.10 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Information and communication technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling also its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004 and 62/182 of 19 December 2007, Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/3 of 18 July 2008 and other relevant resolutions,

Noting that cultural diversity is the common heritage of humankind and that the information society should be founded on and stimulate respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions, and foster dialogue among cultures and civilizations, and noting also that the promotion, affirmation and preservation of diverse cultural identities and languages as reflected in relevant agreed United Nations documents, including the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[1] will further enrich the information society,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[2] as endorsed by the General Assembly,[3] and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[4] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[5]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6]

Stressing the need to reduce the digital divide and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, are available to all,

Recalling the first and second meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens from 30 October to 2 November 2006 and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 12 to 15 November 2007, respectively, and welcoming the convening of the third meeting of the Forum in Hyderabad, India, from 3 to 6 December 2008,

Welcoming, in view of the existing gaps in information and communication technologies infrastructure across Africa, the launching in Kigali, in October 2007,

---

[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum: *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

[2] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

[3] See resolution 59/220.

[4] See A/60/687.

[5] See resolution 60/252.

[6] See resolution 60/1.

of Connect Africa, an initiative aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment, of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate on science and technology for development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, in which, inter alia, the Council requested various entities, including the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, to submit reports to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implications of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[7]

Noting the intersessional meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, held in Santiago from 12 to 14 November 2008,

Stressing that, for the majority of the poor, the developmental promise of science and technology, including information and communication technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communication technologies, to bridge the digital divide,

Recognizing the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, including with respect to enhancing access to information and communication technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communication technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster economic growth, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, particularly developing countries, into the global economy;

2. *Stresses* the important role of Governments in the design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, inter alia, making effective use of information and communication technologies, on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts;

3. *Recognizes* that, in addition to financing by the public sector, financing of information and communication technologies infrastructure by the private sector has come to play an important role in many countries and that domestic financing is being augmented by North-South flows and South-South cooperation;

[7] A/63/72-E/2008/48.

4. *Also recognizes* that information and communication technologies present new opportunities and challenges, and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

5. *Further recognizes* the immense potential that information and communication technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socio-economic activity;

6. *Acknowledges* that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divide, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to the new technologies, especially information and communication technologies for development;

7. *Recalls* the improvements and innovations in financial mechanisms, including the creation of a voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund, as mentioned in the Geneva Declaration of Principles,[2] and, in this regard, invites voluntary contributions to its financing;

8. *Recognizes* that South-South cooperation, particularly through triangular cooperation, can be a useful tool to promote the development of information and communication technologies;

9. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva[2] and Tunis[4] phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms, in a joint effort and dialogue with developing and least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communication technologies sector;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the need for resources in this regard;

11. *Recognizes* the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology, and in that regard encourages the United Nations development system to continue its effort to promote the use of information and communication technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009, on the basis of his consultations with all relevant organizations, including international organizations, a report which may contain recommendations on how the process towards enhanced cooperation should be pursued;

13. *Invites* Member States to support the meaningful participation of stakeholders from developing countries in the preparatory meetings of the Internet Governance Forum and in the Forum itself in 2009 and 2010, and to consider contributing to the multi-stakeholder trust fund created for the Forum, as appropriate;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution.

United Nations A/63/412

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 December 2008

Original: Arabic

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 47

Macroeconomic policy questions

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Awsan **Al-Aud** (Yemen)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled:

"Macroeconomic policy questions:

"(a) International trade and development;

"(b) International financial system and development;

"(c) External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries;

"(d) Commodities"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate jointly on sub-items (b) to (d) at its 7th and 8th meetings, on 13 October 2008, and on sub-item (a) at its 25th and 26th meetings, on 5 November. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/63/SR.7, 8, 25 and 26). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/63/SR.2-6). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbol A/63/412 and Add.1-4.

08-63334 (E) 051208

Item 47 (a)
International trade and development

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-third executive session, Geneva, 3 March 2008 (A/63/15 (Part I))[1]

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-fourth special session, Geneva, 17-20 March 2008 (A/63/15 (Part II))[1]

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-fourth executive session, Geneva, 10 July 2008 (A/63/15 (Part III))[1]

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its fifty-fifth annual session, Geneva, 15-26 September 2008 (A/63/15 (Part IV))[1]

Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its twelfth session, Accra, 20-25 April 2008 (A/63/168)

Report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development (A/63/324)

Letter dated 6 October 2008 from the representative of Namibia to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/63/3)

Item 47 (b)
International financial system and development

Report of the Secretary-General on the international financial system and development (A/63/96)

Letter dated 6 October 2008 from the representative of Namibia to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/63/3)

Item 47 (c)
External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries" (A/63/181)

Letter dated 6 October 2008 from the representative of Namibia to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/63/3)

Item 47 (d)
Commodities

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects (A/63/267)

---

[1] To be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/63/15).

Letter dated 6 October 2008 from the representative of Namibia to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/63/3)

4. At the 7th meeting, on 13 October, introductory statements were made under sub-items (b) to (d) by the Chief of the Policy Analysis and Development Branch of the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Chief of the Debt and Development Finance Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Head of the Special Unit on Commodities of UNCTAD (see A/C.2/63/SR.7).

5. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Policy Analysis and Development Branch of the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Chief of the Debt and Development Finance Branch of UNCTAD and the Head of the Special Unit on Commodities of UNCTAD responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Nigeria and Benin (see A/C.2/63/SR.7).

6. At its 25th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee heard introductory statements under sub-item (a) by the Acting Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the President of the Trade and Development Board (see A/C.2/63/SR.25).

7. At the same meeting, the Acting Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the President of the Trade and Development Board responded to a question posed by the representative of Bangladesh (see A/C.2/63/SR.25).